



John Sousa, Jr.
Tax Collector/Treasurer

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April 9, 2020

**Due Date Extension for Tax Bills, Tax Exemption & Tax Deferral Applications,
and Waiver of Interest and Penalties**

Dear Taxpayer:

The Board of Selectmen voted on April 9, 2020 to accept the following local option provisions of Massachusetts State Law recently enacted to help municipalities address financial challenges that residents may be facing from COVID-19.

1. The due date for your 4th Quarter FY2020 Real Estate and Personal Property tax bill has been extended from May 1, 2020 to **June 1, 2020.**
2. The due date for filing your Tax Exemption, Small Commercial Exemption, and Tax Deferral applications with the Assessors' Office has been extended from April 1, 2020 to **June 1, 2020.**
3. The Town of Chelmsford has also voted to waive interest and other penalties for late payment of any Motor Vehicle Excise tax bill, Property tax bill, Sewer Betterment or other Special Assessment added to tax, Sewer bill, and Stormwater bill **with a due date of March 10, 2020 or after where the payment is made late but before June 30, 2020. Please note: the waiver of interest does not apply to any bill with a due date before March 10, 2020.**

We encourage you to submit your tax exemption or tax deferral application as soon as you are able to do so. Under this law, the deadline for filing tax exemption and tax deferral applications will not be extended beyond June 1, 2020 even if the Town Office building may be closed that day.

The Town Offices building is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19 concerns. The Tax Collector's Office and Assessor's Office will have limited operations during this period to comply with recommended social distancing practices. Although the customer service counters in both of these offices are currently closed, the following alternatives are available for you to make a payment or submit a tax exemption or tax deferral application:

Payment Options:

- A. Pay online through the Town website using City Hall Systems, the Town's online payment vendor. You can make an ACH or electronic payment from your checking or savings account at no charge. A convenience fee is only charged on credit card or debit card transactions by the major credit card companies.
- B. Use your bank's online bill pay feature. Please be sure to reference your account number on the bill payment transaction.
- C. Mail a paper check to: Tax Collector's Office, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824
- D. Payment envelopes containing checks or money orders may also be left inside the Drop Box outside the main entrance to Town Offices at 50 Billerica Rd. The box is marked "Town Offices Drop Box".

Exemption/ Deferral Application Submission Options – Assessors' Office

- A. Mail to Assessors' Office, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824
- B. Enclose application inside an envelope and place inside Town Offices Drop Box.

If you have a question or need assistance, please contact us at:

Telephone

Tax Collector/Treasurer's Office: (978) 250-5210

Assessors' Office: (978) 250-5220

Email

John Sousa, Treasurer/Collector: jsousa@ChelmsfordMA.gov

Frank Reen, Chief Assessor: freen@ChelmsfordMA.gov

The following page contains the full text of the notice as approved by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.



Town of Chelmsford

Important Information Regarding Your Tax Bill

Under “An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19”, Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the Town of Chelmsford has adopted local options to extend due dates for real and personal property tax payments and applications for exemptions and a waiver of interest on certain municipal tax and other bills paid by June 30, 2020. See below.

- 1. The due date of your real and personal property tax bill has been extended to June 1, 2020.** June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date on your previously mailed tax bill is May 1, 2020.
- 2. The due date for applications for property tax exemptions has also been extended to June 1, 2020.** June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for applications on your previously mailed tax bill is April 1, 2020.
This extension applies to applications for the exemptions listed in the third paragraph of G.L. c. 59, sec. 59, including exemptions under clauses 17, 17C, 17C ½, and 17D (seniors, surviving spouses, minor children of deceased parent); 18 (financial hardship -activated military, age and infirmity); 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F, and 22H (veterans, surviving spouses and surviving parents); 37 and 37A (blind persons); 41, 41B, 41C, and 41C ½ (seniors); 42 and 43 (surviving spouse and minor children of firefighter/police officer killed in the line of duty); 52 (certain eligible seniors); 53 (certain eligible properties with septic systems); 56 (National Guard and reservists on active duty in foreign countries); and 57 (local option tax rebates). This extension also automatically applies to applications for residential exemptions under G.L. c. 59 sec. 5C, for small commercial exemptions under G.L. c. 59 sec. 5I and for deferrals under G.L. 59, sec. 5, clauses 41A (seniors) and 18A (poverty or financial hardship due to change in active military).
- 3. The Town of Chelmsford has also voted to waive interest and other penalty for late excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, sewer use or other charge added to tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late but before June 30, 2020.** This applies to late payments of bills that have a due date of March 10, 2020 or after, when such bills are paid late on or before June 30. This waiver does not apply to bills with due dates before March 10, 2020 or if the bill is not paid by June 30.

NOTE – If the Municipal Offices are closed on the June 1, 2020 extended due date for tax payments or filing of exemption applications as a result of the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus or the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the Governor on March 10, 2020, the due dates for tax payments and applications for exemptions are NOT extended – they will be due on June 1, 2020 even if the municipal offices are closed. (See section 10 (b) of the Act.)